

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 24, 2003

MPDC PARTICIPATING IN CITIZEN SUMMIT III

On Saturday, November 1, residents and other stakeholders from across DC will come together at the new Washington Convention Center for Mayor Williams's Citizen Summit III. Headlined "Real Challenges, Real Choices," Citizen Summit III is an opportunity for the public to shape the future of the District. It is America's largest ongoing town hall meeting, a time when residents and government officials engage in extensive dialogue on crucial public issues, including public safety and justice. Chief Ramsey is among several MPDC officials who will be on hand to participate in discussions on community policing strategies, resources and partnerships for the future. Input from Citizen Summit III will help shape the final version of the District's "Citywide Strategic Plan," which sets budget priorities for coming years. The Citizen Summit also provides an opportunity for residents to help build a new, 20-year vision for the city's future, as contained in the District's upcoming Comprehensive Plan.

- ① Learn more about Citizen Summit III—and complete your registration online—by going to:
<http://citizensummit.dc.gov/main.shtml>

- ① In addition to participating in Citizen Summit III discussions, the MPDC will have informational booths at the event describing various MPDC programs and services. For an online list of programs and resources, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/comm.shtml>

MPDC MOBILIZES FOR ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS; NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS REMAIN INTACT

With several rallies and marches scheduled for Saturday, October 25, the MPDC is mobilizing to keep the peace during these events and to provide continued high levels of police coverage in DC neighborhoods. By adjusting officers' schedules and restricting days off, the MPDC is ensuring that neighborhood patrols in all seven police districts are not negatively impacted by the need to devote resources to the anti-war demonstrations in the downtown area. To further support crowd management and public safety during the demonstrations, the MPDC is deploying its network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, along with five additional cameras on a temporary basis. The rallies and marches, which begin as early as 9 am on October 25, do not necessitate permanent street closures, although streets along the various march routes are being temporarily closed to accommodate the marchers.

- ① For more information on the demonstrations, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2379>

- ① Details on the deployment of the CCTV cameras, including the general locations of the five temporary cameras, are available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2369>

"DRUNK DRIVING BITES": TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HALLOWEEN "SOBER RIDE" PROGRAM

Halloween is typically one of the year's most festive events in DC – for children and adults alike. But with this year's celebration taking place on a Friday, the chances of drinking and driving on Halloween are substantially increased. That's why the MPDC is once again supporting the Halloween "SoberRide" program, sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). This year's theme: "Drunk Driving Bites." From 8 pm on Friday, October 31, until 4 am on Saturday, November 1, WRAP will offer people who have been drinking in DC with free cab rides home, up to a \$50 fare. Several cab companies in DC, Maryland and northern Virginia are all participating in the Halloween SoberRide again this year. Residents can request a free cab ride home by calling (800) 200-TAXI (8294) or #8294 (TAXI) on an AT&T Wireless phone.

- ① See WRAP's "SoberRide" poster and information at:
<http://www.soberride.com/>

- ① As part of the "Checkpoint Strikeforce" initiative, the MPDC will be stepping up alcohol enforcement efforts during the Halloween weekend. Details on drunk driving laws and prevention in DC are at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtml>

MPDC SEEKS ROBBERY SUSPECT

The MPDC is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating a suspect (or suspects) wanted in connection with at least one robbery and two attempted robberies that occurred this past week in Northwest DC. The method of operation in each of these cases is similar – the suspect hands the cashier or teller a note demanding money – and there is a distinct possibility that the same individual may have committed these offenses. The two attempted robberies took place late in the afternoon on October 20, targeting a supermarket and a post office branch in the 5500 and 5600 blocks of Connecticut Avenue, NW, respectively. The following day, a suspect – using the same MO – obtained an undetermined amount of cash from a bank in the 3400 block of Connecticut Avenue, NW. The suspect is described as a white male in his 20s, with light colored hair, 5'9" tall, weighing about 140 pounds, and wearing a tan hat and a gray shirt, possibly a sweatshirt. In the October 21 case, he spoke with a Southern accent. Crime Solvers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest in these cases.

NEWS & NOTES

Annual Awards Ceremony. The MPDC's fourth annual Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2003, at 7 pm, in DAR Constitution Hall. Outstanding sworn and civilian employees, along with community partners, will be recognized for their crime prevention efforts over the past year. For details, call (202) 727-3778.

Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. This year's national Student Pledge Against Gun Violence will take place on Thursday, October 23. Details, including a copy of the pledge, are available at <http://www.pledge.org>.

Drug Free Zones. Drug free zones are in effect this weekend in the First, Fourth and Seventh Police Districts, with additional zones planned for next week. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>

ABC Training for Merchants. DC's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, with the assistance of the MPDC and other agencies, is offering another round of free training to merchants on how to sell and serve alcohol responsibly. Details at <http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2366>.

- ① For more details, including surveillance photos of the suspect in the bank robbery, go to:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2375>
- ① Crime Solvers offers rewards for helping to solve a variety of crimes (other than homicide) in DC. Details on Crime Solvers at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtm>
- ① This past week, the MPDC also issued a lookout for a suspect, Thomas Zanders, who is wanted in connection with a July 1, 2000, double homicide in the 200 block of 51st Street, NE. Details and photo at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2377>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 10/24/03)

- 2003: 202
- 2002: 203
- % Change: -0.5%

Arrests (week ending 10/18/03)

- Total: 687
- Drugs: 93
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 9
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 29

Firearm Recoveries (as of 10/22/03)

- Total: 1,576
- October: 131

Traffic Fatalities (as of 10/24/03)

- 2003: 55
- 2002: 46
- % Change: +21.7%